

Problems of Research in Political Science

causality, control of the examined
relationship, distortion, experiment

2020

Research of social reality

- Search for recurring **schemas, regularity, patterns, logic** of system functioning;
- We try to **isolate** the phenomena and **interpret** them by observing the **variables** and the relationships between them - by inducing **causal relations** and then **generalizing** into rules - the laws;
- Such **generalization** is a mean for explaining social reality, allowing us to understand the world.

Causality in the social sciences

Natural vs. social sciences - degree of control of the system.

- **Social sciences**: the inability to **isolate** the **system** and the **causal relationship**; impossibility to formulate **laws**, only the **probability** character of the claim; **limited** possibility of **intervention** and **experiment** ...
- **Causality**: the causal link between (social) phenomena (dependent and independent variable) – its finding, exploring and understanding is **key** to the **scientific knowledge** of society.
- *Maclver: Whatever happens, it has a cause; each cause is a consequence of the preceding cause; each consequence is the cause of the consequence.*
- *Pareto: As a result of the research, it is possible to obtain a set of statements that approximate the extraordinary complexity of the social world.*

Independent variable ---> Dependent variable

cause – transmitting mechanism - consequence

"Science" in the social sciences

Examples of great concepts - have the character of scientific knowledge:

- **Economics:** General Theory of Employment (Keynes), Economic and Social Theory of Growth (Kuznets);
- **Sociology:** Protestant ethics (Weber), Iron laws of the oligarchy (Michels), Social exchange (Homans, Blau);
- **Political Science:** Cleavages (Rokkan), Electoral Laws (Duverger, Sartori), Economic Policy Theory (Downs);
- **International Relations:** Hegemonic Stability (Kindleberger, Krasner) ...

monetary base -> inflation <-> employment, growth

protestantism / catholicism -> economic system performance

proportional / majoritarian elect. system -> party system (no. of parties) -> gov.stability

multipolar / unipolar (heg.) system -> stability of international economic system

Democratic peace theory

„Democracies do not wage wars on each other“

International system (natural system)

contains **elements**: states (democracy / authoritative);

contains their **interactions**: government relations (aggressive /cooperative).

Variables

Political **regime** (authoritative / democratic) - IV (cause)

Behavior in international relations (militarism / cooperation) - DV
(consequence)

Democratic peace

Analysis

- We define the characteristics of **democracy**, the **authoritarian** system, the **cooperative** and **aggressive** behavior of the state;
- We are looking for occurrence of these **features** (to know which type it is); we identify **connections** between these elements and the consequences of their occurrence ...
 - **mobilization** of nation, internal and external **threat**, necessity to **concentrate power** -> **provoking** conflicts, predating and **confronting**, securing resources – **autarky**...
 - **plurality**, elections, economic and political **freedom** -> initiative, **cooperation**, predictability ...
- How many and what elements are needed to **decide** whether it is democracy? (**operationalization**);
- What is the relation between the **policies** of the state and its **internal setting** - why is it related? (link to **theory**) ...

Exploration

- **Germany** and the **FRA** are after 1945 „cooperative" states, formerly aggressive
- North Korea, the USSR after 1945 use to provoke

Generalization

States that are **democratic** are „cooperative", those that are not often "evil".

Theory

- The defined **change** in the **internal** political **system** – *mobilization, threat, concentration of power vs. freedom, entrepreneurship, initiative* - has a systematic **impact** on the character of the state's conduct in international relations (**foreign policy**).
- **Change** to democracy leads to strengthening of cooperation (inside and outside) at the expense of aggression in FP...

Based on the theory, we make the statement (hypothesis):

- **Democratic** internal organization of the country **corresponds** to **cooperative**, non-aggressive foreign policy.

Formulation of general rule (causality): **Democratic** organization is the **cause** of non-aggressive/ **cooperative** behavior of the state in FP.

Confrontation with empirical reality:

- Germany in 2019 has **invaded** France both are **democratic** states ...!
- ... the **hypothesis** is not kept -> the **theory** is **unable** to explain the concrete actions of the state ...

The Most Unhealthy Countries in the World

(problem of validity)

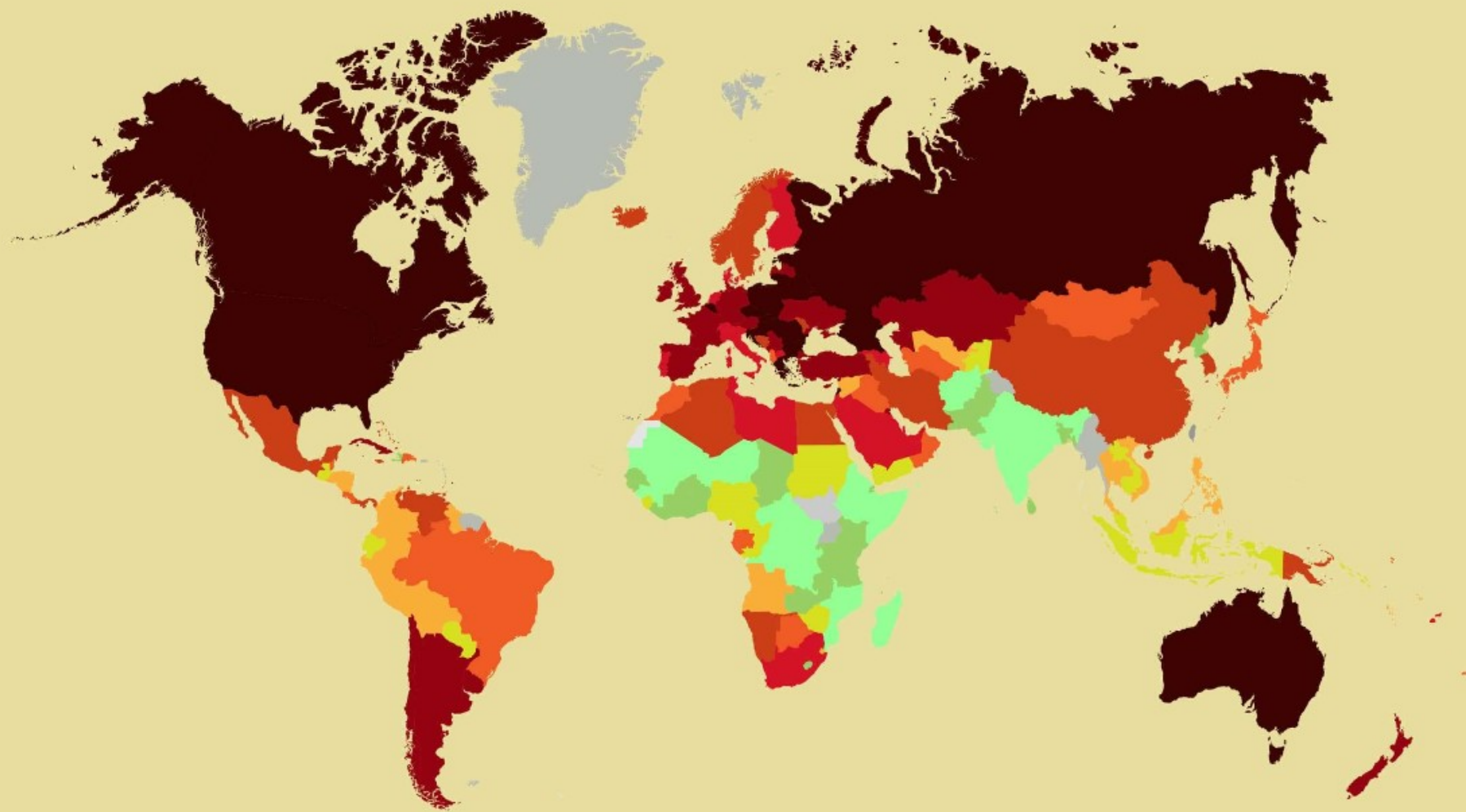
1. Alcohol consumption per person, per year;
2. Tobacco consumption per person, per year;
3. Obesity prevalence within the population.

THE LEAST UNHEALTHY

THE MOST UNHEALTHY



NO DATA



DV	CASE	IV?	IV?
1	Honduras	C	L
2	Venezuela	C	L
3	Belize	C	L
8	Lesotho	C	L
11	RSA	C	M
12	Colombia	C	L
14	Kongo DR	C	L
18	Brazil	C	M
19	Rwanda	C	L
22	Mexico	C	M
27	Nigeria	C, I	L
33	Myanmar	B	L
35	South Sudan	A, C, I	L
36	Ivory Coast	I, C, A	L
39	Turkmenistán	I	M
47	Etiopie	C, I	L

DV	CASE	IV?	IV?
48	Sudan	I	L
66	Russia	C	M
68	Kyrgyzstan	I	M
70	Philippines	C	L
77	Somalia	I	L
79	Iraq	I	L
82	Kazakhstan	I, C	M
84	Pakistan	I	L
86	Mali	I	L
89	Palestine	I	L
91	Eritrea	C, I	L
92	Lithuania	C	M
95	Afghanistan	I	L
108	Albania	I, C	L
111	USA	C	H
121	Iran	I	M
125	Kosovo	I	N

DV	CASE	IV?	IV?
128	India	H, I, C	L
129	Egypt	I	L
138	Thai-wan	B, T	H
145	Bangladesh	I	L
147	Turkey	I	M
152	Malaysia	I, B	M
154	Syria	I	M
155	Norway	C	H
159	Jordan	I	L
165	Israel	J	H
166	Libya	I	L

DV	CASE	IV?	IV?
185	Oman	I	H
186	Qatar	I	H
188	China	T	M
191	Czech rep.	C	H
198	S. Arabia	I	H
201	Japan	B	H
203	Algeria	I	L
208	Indonesia	I	L
209	Switzerland	C	H
210	Bahrain	I	H
212	Kuwait	I	H